

the late Mr. P. F. Bowring, who was fortunate to have witnessed the taking of these two record mahseer, and gaffed both of them.

Mr. Lobb does not recollect how the length measurement was taken, and gives length as 60 inches and girth 38 inches. This, by the usual formula, makes the fish 108 lbs. as against the 110 it was found to weigh 6½ hours later when cut in two for the purpose. So it was undoubtedly a good 110 lbs. The fish was in good condition as is seen in the photograph, and as indicated by the time taken to kill it.

Mr. Lobb writes:—'I hooked the fish at 8-45 a.m. and it was gaffed at 12-40 p.m. It was not fighting all the time, but sulked for perhaps two hours out of the four. The fish and I would take a trip round the pool and then have a rest; that is, I had a rest when the fish felt that way. Then a pull or two and we would start off again. Twice I was over the monster when she had her snout in the mud and the great tail waving above the surface. This was towards the last half hour or so. It was a great experience; but exhausting work, as a tight line had to be maintained all the time.'

Mr. J. de Wet Van Ingen of Mysore very kindly sends me a copy of a letter, written by his late father to the *Madras Mail* in 1921, from which I learn that Mr. de Wet Van Ingen caught a mahseer weighing 107 lbs. on the 15th January 1920, in the Cauvery river near Seringapatam. The measurements were 62½ by 38½ girth. Another fish was caught by the late Mr. Bowring near the same place and also weighed 107 lbs. Measurements 61 by 39. And yet another was taken in another part of the same river by the late Mr. Murray Aynsley and weighed 104 lbs.

It is interesting in connexion with these large mahseer to refer to 'The Rod in India' where the measurements of a mahseer, believed by Sanderson to have weighed 150 lbs., are the same as those of Mr. Lobb's 110 lb. fish.

BANGALORE,

1st January, 1943.

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Indian Army (retired).

XIV.—ADDITIONS TO THE GAME FISHES OF BOMBAY AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Referring to the Society's brochure on the game fishes of the Bombay Presidency¹, I think it well worth while to make the following 2 additions:

Silonopangasius childrenii (Sykes). Mahrati name 'wuluns'.

This fish is in almost every respect a smaller replica of the famous 'silund' of the Ganges, but never reaches the size of this well known monster, a 15 pounder being a large one.

I have repeatedly caught this fish, which is fairly numerous in the Indrayani and the Dhima rivers, and found that it takes a leisurely

¹ Game Fishes of Bombay, the Deccan and the neighbouring districts of the Bombay Presidency, Sir Reginald Spence and S. H. Prater, vol. xxxvi, p. 29.

spun 1-172 inch spoon rather well, and gives quite a respectable fight on light tackle. Some of those I hooked jumped clear of the water and ran out a nice length of line.

Some care must be taken in handling this fish as the strong spiny ray in the pectoral fin is extremely sharp and may inflict a deep and painful sting. Native fishermen invariably break it off.

Callichrous bimaculatus.

This is a common fish in many river pools around Poona and will take a fly spoon upto 1 inch with a surprisingly hard pull. Also it may be tempted with a small mahseer fly, and gives very pretty sport on light trout tackle.

I have repeatedly caught upto 2 dozen of these fish in a morning visit to a good haunt of theirs.

They do not often exceed $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. hereabouts and are rich and very delicious table fish.

Perhaps the above will interest readers of the *Journal*.

116, KOREGAON PARK,
POONA,

M. SUTER, D. SC.

28th October, 1942.

XV.—ON THE WEED-DESTROYING HABIT OF *ETROPLUS SURATENSIS* (BLOCH).

Thomas (1887) and Sundar Raj (1916) have stated that *Etroplus suratensis* (Bloch) is essentially a herbivore. Panikkar (1920) while agreeing with this view, refers to its occasional cannibalistic tendency especially during the breeding season. In consideration of its herbivorous habit, this fish has been recommended as a suitable agent for keeping down excessive vegetation in tanks and ponds. But no attempt seems to have been made to discriminate between those species of aquatic plants it prefers and those it avoids. A number of these fish in one of our aquaria afforded me ample opportunity for observing their feeding habits and studying their preference to certain species of aquatic plants.

Blyxia roxburghi Rich., *Utricularia flexuosa*, *Otellia alismoides* Pers. and *Hydrilla verticillata* Casp. are commonly introduced into fresh water aquaria as ornamental plants, but most of these plants serve only as food for *Etroplus*. The fish shows a strong predilection for the first two species and within a few minutes of their introduction into the tanks they are 'picked' clean leaving only the stumps. In the case of *Otellia alismoides* Pers., the fish snaps off the broad leaves and then nibbles away the juicy stalks, preferably the tender portions. It does not feed on *Hydrilla verticillata* Casp. When all the above species of plants are introduced together the fish first goes in for *Blyxia roxburghi* Rich. and *Utricularia flexuosa* and only after finishing these does it turn to *Otellia alismoides* Pers. The fish often snaps at the floating remnants of its meals, a habit observed and described by Sebastian (1942) in a recent number of this *Journal*.